

# ONKWARIWA'SHON:A

THE ISSUES AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF TODAY, WHICH AFFECT OUR PEOPLE

*Oon-gwa-rhee-wa-soon-a*

Enniska / February 2005

Newsletter of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

## ARE YOU PREPARED?



### Remembering the Storm of the Century

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On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1998 the community of Kahnawake along with the rest of Quebec was thrown into darkness and chaos as a severe ice storm downed power lines and towers all over Quebec. We'd like to think this will never happen again. However, the possibilities for many kinds of winter emergencies are possible. In this issue we concentrate on how you can be prepared for an emergency situation.



In the same manner as the previous edition of Onkwariwa'shon:'a, we will present a chronological look at some of the political issues that have occupied the MCK during the past two months.

As December rolled around, the MCK released the historical pamphlet on the Seigneurie of Sault St. Louis. Those attending the Community Meeting in late November received the first copies released to the public. It was the launch of a new information campaign for the SSSL file, which has been given top priority by the Chiefs. The file is currently in the "exploratory phase," which is expected to continue through until early spring.

**"History is on our side, but if we don't know and respect it, the road ahead will be much more difficult to navigate."**

**-Grand Chief Michael Ahríhron Delisle, Jr**

"History is on our side," said Grand Chief Michael Ahríhron Delisle, Jr. "but if we don't know and respect it, the road ahead will be much more difficult to navigate."

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, Chief Delisle met with Aurelien Gill, who is a member of the Canadian Senate. Chief Delisle was introduced in the Senate by Senator Gill, who is a Montagnais from Pointe Bleue.

Two days later, Chiefs Lloyd Phillips and Keith Myiow were in Ottawa to attend a Special Chief's

Meeting at the Assembly of First Nations. Agenda items included citizenship and health.

On that same date (December 8<sup>th</sup>) the MCK issued a press release informing community members that the results of the historic first group of people applying for instatement/ reinstatement and non-member residency under the new Kahnawá:ke Membership Law were available for public viewing at the Membership office.

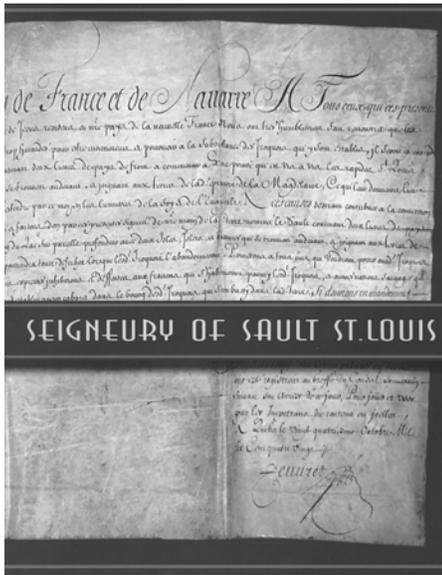
On the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, Chief Mike Bush traveled to Washington, D.C. as part of his work on the border-crossing file. The MCK has been busy exploring ways that could make it easier for community members to cross the border. The issue would rear its head a couple of weeks later...

As Christmas approached, the MCK issued information regarding changes to Québec's policy on automobile insurance. Though the changes had taken place in May, it was found that not all insurance companies might have begun applying the new policy (in which Aboriginal people living on-reserve are no longer required to pay certain provincial taxes) immediately. In some instances, Kahnawá'kehró:non may be eligible for a rebate.

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, the MCK announced that, as a result of an on-going operational assessment of the Kahnawá:ke Peacekeepers, a major recommendation was put forth to form an entity to be known as the *Peacekeeper Services Board*. It was determined that there is a need to create a body that will link the Peacekeeper operation with the administration of the MCK while creating strong measures to prevent unwarranted political interference. Chief and Council agreed that this should be pursued at the earliest possible date and have a deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup> to have the *Peacekeeper Services Board* in operation.

During the Christmas Holidays, a number of Kahnawá'kehró:non were prevented from entering the United States unless they provided Customs officials with a letter attesting to having blood quantum of at least 50% Native blood. The MCK embarked on a campaign to inform community members of the American policy, which is rarely enforced. The Membership Department was flooded with requests for the letter by people expecting to travel to the States.

On January 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Chief Delisle attended the Canada Aboriginal Roundtable in Calgary, Alberta. The event provided Native leaders with a forum to share views and ideas for establishing more effective ways to address treaty rights via negotiations. While there, the chief met with Indian



*Informational Pamphlet circulated to Kahnawá'kehró:non on the SSSL project.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Onkwariwa'shon:'a welcomes your *Letters to the Editor* for publication in future issues of the newsletter. Please send us your opinion, thoughts, or comments on any subject. Letters must be signed and include a return address or phone number. We ask that the writer remains respectful in his/her opinions. Onkwariwa'shon:'a reserves the right to edit for clarity and article length.

Address letters to: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR c/o MCK Communications P.O. Box 720 Kahnawá:ke J0L 1B0



Affairs Minister Andy Scott in order for him to gain a better understanding of Kahnawá:ke's issues and perspective, especially in light of the on-going Seigneury file.

At the same time, Chiefs Martin Leborgne and Keith Myiow attended the Iroquois Caucus in Tyendinaga. The caucus was formed to address issues that are specific to Iroquoian communities that, some leaders feel, aren't being properly addressed at the Assembly of First Nations.

January 20<sup>th</sup> was a very busy day. Chief Delisle met with Québec Native Affairs Minister Benoit Pelletier to discuss the state of negotiations at the Québec-Kahnawá:ke table. He was, and is, concerned about the distance that the provincial government has created between itself and Kahnawá:ke.

Earlier that same day, Chiefs Delisle, Peter Paul and Peggy Mayo met with the mayors of Chateauguay, St. Catherine and Delson. The group agreed to form a liaison committee to discuss intergovernmental relations between the communities on a regular basis.



*Mayors from surrounding municipalities meet with MCK.*

As well, the 20<sup>th</sup> saw several phone calls and visits from community members concerned that they were asked to give their band numbers to Hydro Québec in order to receive their bills with pro-

vincial taxes removed. The MCK went into action immediately and issued a statement to the community the following day that clarified the issue. Kahnawá:ke's exemption from the "band number" directive, which had been in effect since 1997, was reaffirmed and community members were assured that they did not have to provide Hydro Québec with their band numbers after all. Chiefs Martin Leborgne, Johnny Montour and Tiorahkwathe Gilbert, along with MCK official Alwyn Morris, went on community radio to explain the situation in detail.

We hope this gives you a fair overview of some of the issues that the chiefs and technicians have been working on. We remind people to watch, listen to or read local media reports for timely reports. Additionally, those who have Internet service are welcome to connect to [www.kahnawake.com](http://www.kahnawake.com) to view the very same press releases that are sent to media.

## TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES?

When you cross the border with intent to live or work in the U.S. you should be prepared to prove that you have at least 50% Aboriginal blood. Different U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) ports of entry, or border crossings, may ask for different kinds of documentation. Some ask for more, some ask for less. At the border, you may be asked for any or all of the following documents:

- Certificate of Indian Status ("Status card")
- Photo I.D.
- Long-form birth certificate
- **A letter from the MCK Membership Department stating that you have at least 50% Aboriginal blood**

Some people may choose to present their Haudenosaunee "red card" at the border.



Anyone planning to travel to the United States is advised to obtain the letter beforehand. Unfortunately, those members of the community who do not meet 50% blood quantum cannot be issued such a letter at this time.

On a related note, the MCK is in the midst of working with both American and Canadian officials with the goal of creating a system that would allow for easier border passage.

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke wishes to pass on some important information to those who plan to travel to the United States. Recently, some U.S. Customs officers, especially those at airports, have begun applying the "letter of the law" when our people have attempted to cross the border.

Several Kahnawá:kehrónon claiming North American Indian citizenship have been asked to provide a document that attests that the person possesses at least 50% blood quantum. They were **not allowed** into the States until they provided this document.

This is a long-standing policy of the U.S. Government that has rarely been enforced. However, in the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the World Trade Center and the subsequent actions of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs has had a large influx of new staff and management, which may be adding to the stricter enforcement of the policy.

*It has nothing to do with the Kahnawá:ke Membership Law, past or present.*

**For more information, please contact the MCK Membership Department at 638-0500.**

# Ice Storm 1998 and Emergency Preparedness

When the Ice Storm of 1998 hit, here's how Kahnawake responded...

## Emergency Shelters

The **Kahnawake Shakotia'takehnhas Community Service** along with volunteers from the community wasted no time establishing the Knights of Columbus Hall as the primary shelter for food and lodging.

An alternate shelter was also set up at the local Kateri Hall. Six teams were divided into three, eight-hour shifts and organized according to the demands of the time of day and need for the various skills. Volunteers played a big part in preparing and serving meals. Food delivery service was provided for the elderly and individuals with special needs and/or disabled who refused to leave their homes. Meals served (breakfast, lunch, supper) to January 15, 1998 totaled three thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

The Town Garage also provided bus transportation to and from the shelter. A total of three hundred and ten people were accommodated as of January 15, 1998.

The KSCS staff also visited and socialized with the people to keep up morale and to identify any stress issues. By January 16, 1998 with diminishing need for lodging, the Knights of Columbus hall would be used for meals only. Having been the first time an emergency shelter of this proportion has been set up within Kahnawake all went well.

## Possible Hazards within our area include:

Electricity Breakdown  
Highway Accident  
Blizzard  
Water Pollution  
Flooding  
Building Fire  
Railway Accident  
Shipping Accident  
Freezing Rain  
Motor Vehicle Fire  
Soil Pollution

## Supplies

Unfortunately there also wasn't a set protocol on handling of supplies. At times, there was an abundance of supplies coming in and no set place to direct it too, or a set agency to handle it. Therefore, it was passed through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and a site was designated at the time of call. The list of supplies needed seemed to be endless (candles, batteries, fuel, etc.) The community's main demand at this time was generators.

The **Mohawk Council of Kahnawake** along with individual community members did receive generators that were for sale to the public. Food supplies were in good condition with community members and local businesses donating food. A priority system was also enacted to ensure the proper procurement of food. At no time was there a threat regarding food supplies. Although gas was in good supply a memo was sent to gas stations to ration gas, allowing only \$10.00 per customer.

With people depending on their propane stoves not only to cook with but to also heat with, the list was endless for Propane. Mohawk Fuel Oil, Zachary Fuel Oil and Superior Propane did their best to keep up with the demand. Not only were they supplying propane, they were also called to check on stoves, furnaces, etc. With wood stoves providing another source of heat, wood was also in demand.

Donations of wood came in from as far away as Onondaga, which was distributed evenly among the people. K-103 informed the community of the different supplies coming into the community and where to get them. At times some supplies went low but there was never cause for panic. At no time was the water filtration plant without power, thus providing the community with continuous drinking water and fire protection capabilities.

In order to receive larger size generators and heavy equipment, contacts were made with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and Public Security Quebec. Through those departments some of the supplies were made accessible for Kahnawake.

## Emergency Planning: What's a person to do?

*By: Kellyann Meloche, Emergency Preparedness Planning Committee Coordinator*

I remember applying for the position of Emergency Preparedness and Planning Researcher; it was a 6-month position with the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake. I had no understanding of the position, but have always been interested in Emergency Services in general, and attending John Abbott Collage at the time, I knew about research!

Here it is 11 years later, and I know all about the 4 phases of Emergency Management, which include Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. My day-to-day activities include tasks from one of these 4 phases. I am in constant contact with one or another service/department on the Emergency Planning Committee. I enjoy the job so much.

A typical day would include, checking the local forecast for the next 7 days, ensuring there are no forecasted major storms, or heavy rains. Meeting with one or two representatives of the committee, talking about equipment that could be used or training that's being requested. I also keep in contact with our neighbors ensuring that their emergency plans are up-to-date, and they have all our contact numbers. The surrounding communities are very happy to be working with us in the event of a major emergency or disaster. They have all expressed their willingness to help us at any time.

We have a variety of plans that are ready and constantly updated. Our community Emergency Preparedness Plan outlines who is on the Committee and essentially who is going to be called in the event of a major emergency. It also identifies what risks we have within our community, how many available shelters there are in the event of evacuation, what our public information plan is going to be like, and all our internal contact numbers.

Another plan is our Emergency Resource Directory. This has numbers of all sorts, including where we could get sandbags, or dump trucks, or perhaps we need a helicopter, it's all in the emergency resource directory.

*[Continued on next page...]*

# Akohsera:ke—Winter Thoughts



By: *Ratitshenhais*  
*Tiorahkwathe Gilbert*

Kwe Tawatateken—Greetings to my relations

{Oniehte}: is originally water or rain at first, but because of temperature change it turns into flakes of snow as it gets closer to the cold climate of earth, which is sent down to us by the Thunderers to enjoy in many capacities such as---ice-fishing, ice-skating, skiing, tobogganing, ski-dooing, cross-country skiing, making snow-men, ice castles etc...

{Akohsera:ke-Winter} in the Kanien'keha dialect is "the hard time" or season in which we all endure individually and collectively during our visit here on mother earth... To' nate'sosheri'iakon? In our Kanien'keha language is: "How old are you?" {yes}, but the true and exact meaning is: "How many winters have you passed in your present day life-time?"... If you're 13 yrs. old, then this is how many hard times or winters that you've endured and so forth.

Our Ancestors gauged that a person who went through a winter or hard time in life completed the full circle of life (or year) because they physically made it through this very trying time of



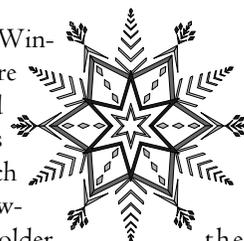
season..."Iethi'nistenha tsi iohontsate saiko'shiraien'ta:ne": Our mother, the earth will be receiving her new "white blanket-(snow)" to comfort her during the dormant period (winter) in which she will rest comfortably until the next new season (spring-time), when new life will once again be in our midst...

WE are all descendants of many Proud, Past Fires {Kahwa:tsire-families} :new additions (babies) to our family fires or circles, new sap to make maple syrup, new leaves to purify our breathing of fresh air and a place to sit under when our brother the SUN is too hot, new strawberries for our ceremonies, new corn in our gardens so we can once again eat kanatara'khon:we etc...

{Shanennio'kwa-Snowman}: is many white flakes of snow pieced together in a circular-like shape to create a close resemblance of a chubby, contented, happy-go-lucky creature made with lots of oniehte named Frosty.



Akohsera:ke or Winter is much more appreciated when one is younger and much more flexible however as we get older, the challenges of this season are greater but lets think on the positive side because our Ancestors struggled and hurdled many trip-wires in their hard season of life without any so called luxuries such as a car starter to warm up the 8 horse's)-power in the driveway or the turning to the left of a thermostat if the longhouse was too cold...



Tewatenikonhri'iohst, iah teiononhtonkh ehnskaniehtanawen tanon ensewa'tarihatanion:(lets all be patient because before we know it, the snow will begin to melt and the warmer weather will be that much more appreciated and hopefully WE can say that we've weathered another storm of life as unique, distinct, Kahnawa'kehró:non/Kanien'kehaka people...

Thok niwakewen:nake niahkwe: (these are my words for now).

## Emergency Planning [Continued from page 4]

All of the committee members represent one service or department within the community. Each of those members has a plan for their department; it's called a Response Plan. In those plans we identify what their responsibilities are going to be during each of the identified risks within the community. For instance, if we had a chemical spill on highway I38, the Fire Brigade would be in-charge of the scene for immediate response, then the ambulance would take care of any injured, K.S.C.S. would take care of any evacuees that had to leave the area, and the transportation department (school buses) would provide the transport to the evacuation centers. Peacekeepers would be in-charge of perimeter control, our Communications team would get all the information possible to the community in the fastest medium, and our Supplies personnel would get any needed supplies to the scene.

Sound Complicated? It's not when you have a well-planned, well-trained, committee that, Kahnawake has.

# REFLECTION

The ice storm of 1998 is a time in history that everybody would rather forget. Except, that is, for the Kahnawake Emergency Preparedness Planning Committee (EPPC).

The EPPC will always have that emergency to rely on for feedback. They can see where things went smoothly, as well as areas to improve in the event of another man-made or natural emergency.

We don't like to recall the hardships we were faced with during the Ice Storm, however we can look back at them as lessons learned. We don't have control over natural disasters—which is why this month's issue of 'Reflections' looks back at the ice storm of 1998, to remind people how our community responded to this emergency situation.

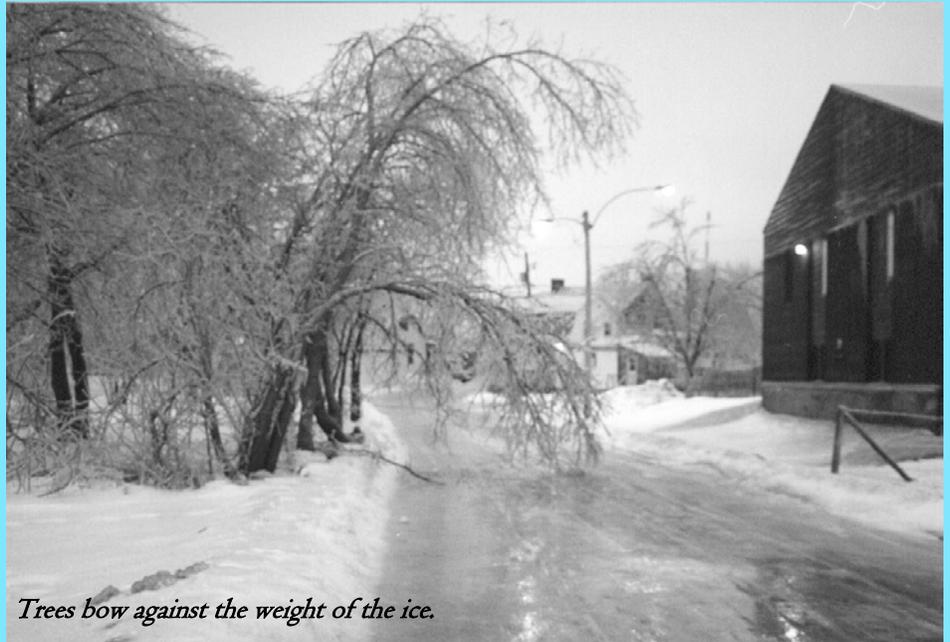
## Onkwariwa'shon:'a Recalls:

### Gazette Story—January 24, 1998

It was the storm of the century: five days of freezing rain that caused chaos and destruction, darkness and death. Millions of Quebecers and all of Kahnawake without power, some for weeks on end, as the temperature fluctuated wildly between mild and extreme. Business ground to a halt. Montreal and Kahnawake on the verge of chaos, in the dark. Thousands forced into shelters. The Army and police patrolling the streets, well not here in Kahnawake but outside communities. Hydro-Quebec's power grid holding by a fragile thread.

## Prelude To A Storm SUNDAY JAN. 4

A few late revelers speed home along highways in and around Kahnawake and Montreal roads. Everything seems peaceful and everyone is secure in their sleep. They know the holidays are over. They think the new years routine is about to begin.



*Trees bow against the weight of the ice.*

Photo courtesy of the Eastern Door.

In a nondescript, nine-story building overlooking the highway, most of the offices stand quiet and still. The elevator waits silently unused. The doors are locked in the ground floor travel agency, darkness obscuring the brochures for tropical beaches and the posters of Hong Kong.

Yet the lights are shining on the third floor, the third floor never sleeps.

It's here, on the edge of St. Laurent, that Environment Canada houses the Quebec regional office of its Atmospheric Environment Directorate. The translators and Computer programmers, the secretaries and administrators are at home in their beds. But even at 4:20 a.m., a team of three meteorologists is on the job. One of them—a tall, bearded, scrawny looking man named Denis Gosselin—finishes typing a message on his computer screen. Gosselin came to work at midnight, his breath a cloud of smoke in the thick black air. He specializes in violent weather. In the summer, hail and lightning; in the winter, ice.

Gosselin's bulletin begins by describing "a vigorous cold front." the Lower St. Lawrence, he says, can expect a blizzard propelled by strong northerly winds. But his message goes on to warn about something else just beyond the horizon for Montreal:

"A low pressure system originating in the southern U.S. is approaching southwestern Quebec. The precipitation associated with this system will begin in the form of rain mixed with ice pellets, which will eventually change into freezing rain."

The message goes out to the usual clients: radio and TV stations, airports, Police. Gosselin glances up at one of the maps of Quebec that adorn the walls of the big, open-plan office. Soon, people all over the province will wake up to the forecast of what the heavens have in store for them.

But no one—not even Gosselin—has any idea how catastrophic that low-pressure system will prove to be.

# CTIONS



ficie. The number of calls for assistance has been decreasing steadily and a pattern is noticed that the number of calls has decreased significantly between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., however people continue to work around the clock.

## Here in Kahnawake January 6, 1998—Early Stages

Late Tuesday January 6, 1998 the Emergency Preparedness Planning Committee (EPPC) decided that the Knights of Columbus Hall would be set up as an emergency shelter. That night a generator was installed. The following evening cots and blankets were supplied by the Red Cross.

As the freezing rain continues, trees and wires become heavy with ice. Limbs are beginning to fall into the roadways and onto Bell and Hydro lines. Staff from MCK's Technical Services are dispatched to remove the debris from the roadways.

It would take three days from dawn to dusk to clear all roads in Kahnawake. Sava Tree was brought in to remove branches from secondary lines and house connections.

As conditions worsen reports of downed lines begin flooding into the Fire Hall. By night, Public Works crews are dispatched to either remove the lines or barricade roadways. Peacekeepers report low-hanging lines over roadways. There is concern that snow plows and buses will sever the lines when traveling the roadways.

Crews assist by knocking ice off the lines or propping up the lines with two-by-fours. A borrowed generator was installed at the Kateri Hall and Youth Center. At this point, the Emergency Operations Center and Public Works staff are operating 24-hours a day. EPPC members are meeting twice daily.

## Middle Stages

By January 11, 1998 the weather becomes milder. This presented the community with new challenges as the temperature rises. Reports of leaking roofs and flooding basements are on the increase. Almost a week has passed since most people have had power. Residents are beginning to worry about freezing pipes. Public Service Announcements begin on the "how to" protect your plumbing. Our crews are busy assisting community members with turning off water and pumping out basements.

Several public buildings including the hospital and KC Hall have been evacuated to determine the risk of the roof collapsing from the accumulation of ice; it is determined that there is no danger. By January 17<sup>th</sup>, 50 to 60% of the community has had power restored. Things seem to be returning to normal for most residents and the EPPC decides that once a day meetings will suf-

## Later Stages

The temperature is hovering around -20°C. Reports of bursting pipes are beginning to come in. As electricity is restored in more homes, incidences of leaking roofs are increasing. In response to this the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake has organized a group to assist residents.

During the January 20, 1998 committee meeting it was decided that the generator at the K of C Hall would be disconnected since the shelter was no longer required. There are no more sleep overs and few meals are being served. The hall is now being used as a distribution point for compensation cheques. In the EOC, the number of calls for assistance are down to a trickle, the committee held its last meeting.

## State of Emergency

It should be noted that although many of the communities surrounding Kahnawake had declared a state of emergency... Kahnawake did not, as this would have resulted in another authority taking control over the community, which was unacceptable to Kahnawake.

Photo courtesy of the Eastern Door.



## Epilogue

By January 23, 1998 approximately 90% of the community has had their power restored. Crews are now removing tree limbs from the creeks to prevent flooding during spring thaw. The recovery process has begun.

# Are You Prepared?

## Family Disaster Supply Kit

One of the first steps toward preparedness is the creation of a family disaster supply kit. This will help families get through the first few days after a disaster. Public shelter after a disaster may not offer some of the basic necessities. The development of a kit will make a stay in a public shelter more comfortable, should it be necessary. Store the kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Store items in airtight bags or containers. Replenish the kit twice a year.

Include five basic items: 1) Water 2) food 3) first aid kit 4) tools & supplies 5) clothing & bedding, as well add a few special items you think your family may require during an emergency.

**1. Water:** Store water in clean plastic containers such as thoroughly washed and rinsed drink bottles with tight fitting screw-on caps. Store 1 gallon per day per family member (2 quarts for drinking 2 quarts for food preparation/sanitation). Children, nursing mothers and ill people will need more. A three day supply of water should be stored for every family member. Replace water every 6 months.

**2. Food:** Store at least a three day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water. If you must heat food, pack a can of *Sterno*. Rotate these foods into the regular diet frequently to keep the supply fresh. In a disaster supply kit include: ready to eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables. Canned juices, milk, soup (if powered, store extra water) staples such as sugar, salt, pepper, high energy foods such as peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix. Vitamins, infant foods such as cookies, hard candy, instant coffee, tea bags.

**3. First Aid Kit:** Assemble a first aid kit for the home and one for each vehicle. An approved American Red Cross kit may be purchased, or one may be assembled with the following items:

- sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- 2- and 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6 of each)
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- triangular bandages (3)
- 2-inch and 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls each)
- scissors
- tweezers
- needle
- moistened towelettes
- antiseptic
- thermometer
- sunscreen
- tube of petroleum jelly or lubricant
- assorted safety pins
- cleaning agent/soap
- latex gloves (2 pairs)
- non-prescription drugs
- aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- anti-diarrhea medication
- antacid (for stomach upset)



## If trapped in a car during a blizzard

Stay in the car. Do not leave the car to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. You may become disoriented and lost in blowing and drifting snow. Display a trouble sign. Hang a brightly colored cloth on the radio antenna and raise the hood. Occasionally run the engine to keep warm.

Turn on the car's engine for about 10 minutes each hour. Run the heater when the car is running. Also turn on the car's dome light. Beware of Carbon Monoxide poisoning. Keep exhaust pipe clear of snow, and open a downwind window slightly for ventilation.

Do minor exercise to keep up circulation. Clap hands and move arms and legs occasionally. Try not to stay in one position too long. If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping. For warmth, huddle together. Use newspapers, maps, and even the removable car mats for added insulation.

Taking into consideration the disaster in Thailand and other countries, the crazy weather we have been experiencing, potential accidents could possibly occur...we ask the question "Are You Prepared"? Listed below are some of the items that could save your life in the event of an emergency situation. Of course we cannot be prepared for everything but we can be prepared for the accidents or severe weather that we are vulnerable to in our area of the world.

- syrup of ipecac (use to induce vomiting, if advised by the Poison control center)
- laxative
- activated charcoal (use if advised by the poison control center)

**4. Tools and Supplies:** Various tools and supplies may be needed for temporary repairs or personal needs. Include these items in your disaster supply kit:

- battery operated radio and extra batteries
- flashlight and extra batteries
- non-electric can opener, utility knife
- map of the area (for locating shelters)
- cash or travelers checks, change
- fire extinguisher: small canister, ABC type
- tube tent
- pliers
- tape
- compass
- matches in waterproof container
- aluminum foil
- plastic storage containers
- signal flare
- paper, pencil
- needles, thread
- medicine dropper
- wrench, to turn off household gas & water
- whistle
- plastic sheeting
- mess kits or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- emergency preparedness manuals



# FACTS & STATISTICS



## Winter Road Maintenance Stats

Here are some statistics from the Public Works Unit that displays the amount of material (in tons) purchased over the past few years to keep our roads clean and safe during the winter months.

As you can see, there is a large variation in the materials used from year to year.

TONS		2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-present
Local Roads	Sand	0	76.09	0	
	Abrasives	0	77.78	341.55	176.27 ordered (approx. 80-90 tons used already)
	Salt	713.77	831.49	472.52	821.08 ordered (approx. 600 tons used already)
132/138, OCR, 207	Sand	0	0	0	Cold Patch asphalt 30.41 tons ordered this year (207 has bad pot holes)
	Abrasives	0	43.87	24.48	
	Salt	860.14	667.77	639.71	

## MOHAWK COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

MCR #	Date	Subject
64	12/13/2004	Land Allotment—Maureen Patricia Mary Kwatsitsawi Meloche
65	12/13/2004	Protocol for Institution of Actions Defense of Actions and Settlement of Litigious Files
66	01/10/2005	Land Allotment—Bryan Arthur Tehanonsokotha Diabo
67	01/17/2005	Implement name change to INAC replace with “Mohawks of Kahnawake”



## Akohserá:ke/Winter Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2005** at the Golden Age Club at 7:00 pm.

The community is encouraged to attend.

# Is Kahnawake prepared in the event of an EMERGENCY?

First of all people should know that there is a Communal Law on Emergency, the *Kaianerenhserison o'nakaiéren kát'kek taionkwaniénsken kenthó Kahnawá:ke* (*Kahnawá:ke Emergency Preparedness Law*) was enacted on November 11 1997.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this *Kaianerenhserison kenthó Kahnawá:ke* (*Kahnawá:ke Communal Law*) is to provide a foundation for the prevention of *Thaontaia'wéhstsi thé:nen taontenonniánihte* (*Disaster*) within *Tsi tewanakerénion* (*Mohawk Territory of Kahnawá:ke*) and to provide a network of emergency measures for the response and recovery of the *Iakwanienkehaka* (*Mohawk Community of Kahnawá:ke*) in the event of a *Thaontaia'wéhstsi thé:nen taontenonniánihte* (*Disaster*).

## APPLICATION

This *Kaianerenhserison kenthó Kahnawá:ke* (*Kahnawá:ke Communal Law*) and any regulations derived from this *Kaianerenhserison kenthó Kahnawá:ke* (*Kahnawá:ke Communal Law*) apply to all Persons and Property located within the *Tsi tewanakerénion* (*Mohawk Territory of Kahnawá:ke*) at the time that a *Thaontaia'wéhstsi thé:nen taontenonniánihte* (*Disaster*) occurs or in its aftermath.

## PARAMOUNTCY

This *Kaianerenhserison kenthó Kahnawá:ke* (*Kahnawá:ke Communal Law*) is paramount over any other legislative act or regulation concerning emergency preparedness as it purports to relate to the *Tsi tewanakerénion* (*Mohawk Territory of Kahnawá:ke*) including any Act or Regulation of the Parliament of Canada, the legislative assembly of any province of Canada and/or any other government.

## Excerpt from the EMERGENCY MEASURES in the event of a Thaontaia'wéhstsi thé:nen TAONTENONNIÁNIHTE (DISASTER)

Any Person within the *Tsi tewanakerénion* (*Mohawk Territory of Kahnawá:ke*) shall alert the *Rothnawéronte* (*Grand Chief*) as quickly as possible.

In the event of *Thaontaia'wéhstsi thé:nen taontenonniánihte* (*Disaster*) the *Rothnawéronte* (*Grand Chief*) may decree a state of emergency in part or all of the *Tsi tewanakerénion* (*Mohawk Territory of Kahnawá:ke*) for such period as may be required, not to exceed thirty (30) days.

A decree declaring a state of emergency must indicate:

- a) the nature of the *Thaontaia'wéhstsi thé:nen taontenonniánihte* (*Disaster*);
- b) the area of the *Tsi tewanakerénion* (*Mohawk Territory of Kahnawá:ke*) that is declared a *Thaontaia'wéhstsi thé:nen taontenonniánihte* (*Disaster*) area;
- c) the person in charge of Emergency Measures;
- d) if possible, the main Emergency Measures.

The decree must be publicized to all Persons within the *Tsi tewanakerénion* (*Mohawk Territory of Kahnawá:ke*) as quickly as possible by whatever means the *Rothnawéronte* (*Grand Chief*) determines are the most useful.

Once the state of emergency has been decreed, the *Rothnawéronte* (*Grand Chief*) and/or the *Ronterihwa'tetiátha* (*Coordinator*) shall implement the appropriate Emergency Measures.

In implementing the appropriate Emergency Measures, the *Rothnawéronte* (*Grand Chief*) and/or the *Ronterihwa'tetiátha* (*Coordinator*) may make such orders in relation to the following matters they judge necessary to deal with the effects of the *Thaontaia'wéhstsi thé:nen taontenonniánihte* (*Disaster*):

- a) regulate or prohibit travel to, from, or within any specified area of the *Tsi tewanakerénion* (*Mohawk Territory of Kahnawá:ke*) where necessary for the protection of the health or safety of Persons;
- b) evacuate Persons and remove personal property from any specified area of the *Tsi tewanakerénion* (*Mohawk Territory of Kahnawá:ke*) and make arrangements for the adequate care and protection of Persons and Property;
- c) requisition, use or dispose of Property;
- d) authorize or direct a Person to render essential services as they are competent to provide;
- e) regulate the distribution and availability of essential goods, services and resources;
- f) authorize and make emergency payments;
- g) establish emergency shelters and hospitals;
- h) assess damage to any Property belonging to the *Ietsenhaientákhwa* (*Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke*) and authorize the repair or replacement of it;
- i) assess damage to the environment and take steps to alleviate or eliminate the damage.

The *Ietsenhaientákhwa* (*Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke*), at their next scheduled meeting, or, no later than three (3) days following the decree shall ratify the decree as a resolution of the *Ietsenhaientákhwa* (*Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke*).



# Youth's Page

## Keep Winter Pastimes Safe

By: Clair Patton, Child Injury Prevention, Community Health Unit

### Sledding

Sledding is a great way to have fun in winter, but unfortunately as with every sport or activity, injuries can happen. Here's how you can be sure to safely enjoy sledding:



- \* Never ride on a sled pulled by a motorized vehicle.
- \* Make sure you wear a helmet.
- \* Use traditional sleds with wide runners they are much easier to steer than plastic saucers.
- \* Quickly move out of the way when you get to the bottom.
- \* Slide down the middle of the hill, and climb up the side, watching up the hill for sliders coming down.
- \* Choose a hill that is away from roads & parking lots.

- \* Choose a hill free of obstacles such as rocks, trees or fences.
- \* Use sunscreen—yes, even in winter you can get a sun burn! The sun reflects off the snow and is stronger than you think, even in winter.

### Ouch—Frostbite!

It's important to dress properly during cold weather. Exposure to the cold without proper protection can result in frostbite.

Use these precautions:

- \* Wear warm boots, hat, mittens, snow pants or snowsuit.
- \* Wear several thin layers to help keep dry as well as warm.
- \* Don't stay out for long periods of time—periodically go inside to warm up. Change your clothes if you're wet.
- \* Use common sense—if it's very cold, stay indoors.

### Skating

Skating at an arena or a rink provides safer ways to have fun than on frozen rivers, lakes or creeks. However, if you have no choice, take precaution:

- \* Cut a hole from shore outward to see if the ice is at least 15cm thick—never assume it is safe.
- \* It's best to stay off ice near moving waters as the ice will vary in thickness, making it unpredictable.
- \* An adult should supervise on the ice whether it is pond, rink or arena—in case of an emergency.
- \* Be sure child's skates fit properly with good ankle support to avoid sprains or twists.



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONTEST

Answer the questions below and get them in to MCK Communications as soon as possible and you could win a prize. All correct entries received will be put in a draw for the prize. *Hint: All of the answers to these questions can be found in this newsletter.*

1. What is the name of the law that is in effect for emergencies?
2. What types of emergencies can happen here in Kahnawake?
3. Who is the Emergency Preparedness Planning Committee Coordinator?
4. Name 4 items you need in the event of an emergency?
5. When was the Ice Storm of 1998 officially declared over?

Remember to bring your answers to the Communications building located next to the main MCK building or mail your answers to the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake, P.O. Box 720, Kahnawake, JOLIBO c/o Communications or e-mail at [communications@mck.ca](mailto:communications@mck.ca).

## Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke

P.O. Box 720  
Kahnawake Mohawk Territory  
JOL 1B0

Phone: (450) 632-7500  
Fax: (450) 638-5958  
Email: communications@mck.ca

## ONKWARIWASHON:A

Through this publication, the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke seeks to promote awareness and dialogue by informing the community on its activities and by analyzing the important issues affecting Kahnawá:ke.

The editorials serve to provide a forum for commentary from the Mohawk Council and/or its staff, while serving as a catalyst for community input. The editorial views expressed are the sole responsibility of the author, and may not represent those of the MCK or those of the editorial staff. Please direct all correspondence to the Communications Department.

### Credits

#### Layout / Design

Timmy Norton

#### Editorial Staff

Timmy Norton  
Wendy Walker-Phillips

#### Contributors

Frank Deere  
Joe Delaronde  
Ratitsénhaiens Tiorahkwathe Gilbert  
Leonda Kirby  
Kellyann Meloche  
Brendan Montour  
Clair Patton

#### Proofreading

Thelma Paul

#### Photo Credits

Eastern Door



## MCK Employee News

**Loanna Zacharie** has been hired as the Administrative Assistant to the Seigneurie Sault St Louis file.



**Lorna Delaronde** was hired as the Mohawk Self Insurance Clerk.

**Alana Goodleaf-Rice**, Executive Director of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake remains off on medical leave. She is scheduled to return Feb. 28th.



**Kevin Kennedy** has been doing a fine job filling in for Alana since she has been in leave and will continue to head the MCK Operations.

**Paul Cross** began his position as the CPU Railway Crossing guard recently.

**Marylee Armstrong** is now officially a Lawyer for the MCK. Marylee passed her Quebec bar exam in December of 2004.



**Clifford McComber**, Laborer with the Capital Construction Department retired from the MCK after more than 25 years of service.



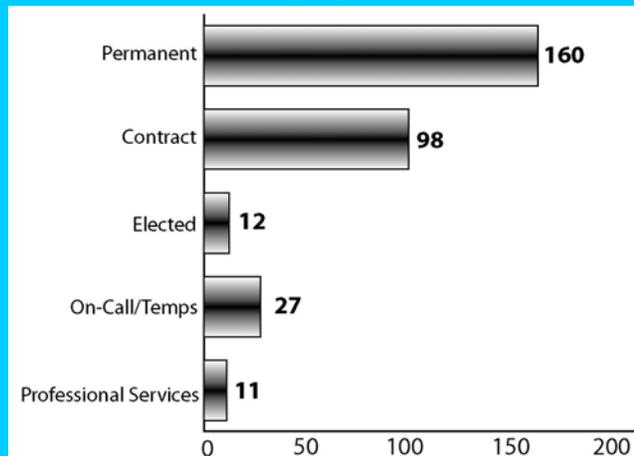
Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> was Clifford's last day of work. We wish Clifford all the best for an enjoyable retirement.



**Mike Dearhouse** retired from his long-time position as a School Bus Driver for the MCK. Mike began in June 1981;

employed for approximately 23 years, 7 months. He was a very serious driver and everyone knew he didn't fool around when enforcing the rules. We wish him a long and happy retirement and we're sure he will still be seen around town plumb-ing, golfing and enjoying his new lifestyle with Margaret.

### Number of MCK Employees as of Dec 2004



### Number of Managerial Positions as of Dec 2004

